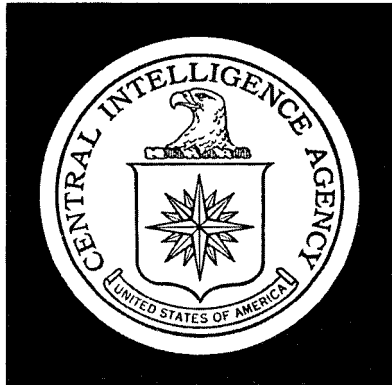


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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

State Dept. review completed

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HIGHLIGHTS

Coastal shipping along the southern portion of the DRV has increased markedly with the initiation of the Tet truce period on 8 February.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam: The first 20 hours of the Tet cease-fire have been marred by 14 major violations, including three involving US defensive patrols in Binh Tuy Province (Paras. 1-2). A huge explosion and fire hit the napalm assembly area of the Bien Hoa Air Base just before the start of the truce period (Para. 3). Twenty Viet Cong were killed by a regional force platoon late on 7 February (Para. 4). The weekly review of South Vietnam battle statistics (Para. 5).

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III. Military Developments in North Vietnam: Coastal shipping along the southern portion of the DRV increased markedly with the initiation of the Tet truce period on 8 February (Paras. 1-2).

IV. Other Communist Military Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: The Soviets renewed a request to the Laotian Government for over-flight rights for Soviet aircraft between Rangoon and Hanoi (Paras. 1-2). An NFLSV official in Moscow has made the first specific reference by a Front official to that portion of the DRV foreign minister's recent interview dealing with the possibility of talks with the US in return for a cessation of the bombings (Paras. 3-4).

ANNEX:

South Vietnam Battle Statistics

1963 through the week of 29 Jan - 4 Feb 67

-Weapons and Personnel Losses

-Viet Cong Attacks and Incidents

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. During the first 20 hours of the lunar new year (Tet) cease-fire, a total of 14 major and 31 minor Communist-initiated incidents have been reported. A major incident is defined as one involving casualties, large enemy forces, new or different weapons, or a heavy volume of weapons fire. American casualties to date resulting from enemy violations of the truce total 18 wounded. Enemy losses stand at seven killed and one captured.

2. Three of the early major violations involved US defensive patrols from Operation GATLING II in the northern part of coastal Binh Tuy Province. Six Americans were wounded and one Viet Cong captured in these encounters.

3. Six hours prior to the beginning of the cease-fire, an explosion and fire in the napalm assembly area of the Bien Hoa Air Base, 18 miles northeast of Saigon, destroyed nearly 140,000 gallons of napalm. No injuries to American personnel were reported. Preliminary assessments were unable to pinpoint Viet Cong sabotage as the cause; however, one Vietnamese suspect was apprehended in the area and is being held for questioning.

4. Late on 7 February, a South Vietnamese Regional Force platoon engaged an estimated 60 Viet Cong about 15 miles southeast of Tay Ninh city. In an ensuing fire-fight, 20 enemy soldiers were killed, six were captured, six suspects were apprehended, and three weapons were captured. No South Vietnamese losses were reported.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF SOUTH VIETNAM BATTLE STATISTICS

5. The week of 29 Jan - 4 Feb as compared with the week of 22-28 January:

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I. Viet Cong Incidents

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>At-tacks</u>	<u>Regimental size</u>	<u>Battalion size</u>
22-28 Jan	17	0	0
29 Jan-4 Feb	28	0	0

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Company size</u>	<u>Harassment</u>	<u>Terrorism</u>
22-28 Jan	3	405	38
29 Jan - 4 Feb	1	289	22

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Sabo-tage</u>	<u>Propa-ganda</u>	<u>Anti-Aircraft</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
22-28 Jan	14	28	251	753
29 Jan - 4 Feb	13	18	466	836

II. Casualties

	<u>VC/NVA</u>			<u>GVN</u>		
	<u>22-28 Jan - 29 Jan - 4 Feb</u>			<u>22-28 Jan - 29 Jan - 4 Feb</u>		
Killed	979	---	1309	157	---	170
Wounded	---	---	----	403	---	411
Missing/ Captured	<u>203</u>		<u>314</u>	<u>17</u>		<u>26</u>
TOTALS	1,182		1,623	577		607

	<u>US</u>			<u>FREE WORLD</u>		
	<u>22-28 Jan - 29 Jan - 4 Feb</u>			<u>22-28 Jan - 29 Jan - 4 Feb</u>		
Killed	131	---	112	15	---	38
Wounded	822	---	919	42	---	53
Missing/ Captured	<u>6</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
TOTALS	959		1,031	57		91

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III. Weapons Captured

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>22-28 Jan - 29 Jan - 4 Feb</u>		<u>22-29 Jan - 29 Jan - 4 Feb</u>	
Individual	384	Not	74	113
Crew-Served	<u>8</u>	Reported	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTALS	356		75	114

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

1. Coastal shipping along the southern portion of the DRV increased markedly with the initiation of the Tet truce period on 8 February. US destroyers and reconnaissance aircraft have reported sighting more than 500 ships on the move during the first 18 hours of the ceasefire period. Coastal traffic prior to the Tet holiday had slowed to a near standstill, partly as a result of US air and naval interdiction efforts between the 19th parallel and the DMZ.

2. The cargo carriers sighted on 8 February included armed trawlers, oil barges, and gunboats serving as tugs. Although significant numbers of these logistic craft were seen moving south, more than half were heading in a northerly direction. The latter ships, often lightly loaded, may have been returning from previously completed supply runs to the southern DRV. During the recent Christmas and New Year holidays there was a significant increase in North Vietnamese coastal shipping, but the movement was not as great as that currently under way.

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IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. The Soviet ambassador in Laos has renewed an earlier request to Souvanna Phouma for overflight rights for Soviet aircraft between Rangoon and Hanoi. The Laotian leader in reporting this information to the US Embassy in Vientiane stated that he felt the request was "fairly urgent" and resulted directly from the current impasse with the Chinese Communists. Souvanna told the embassy that he would require specific details on the request from the Soviets but that he would be prepared to grant a defined corridor across the north of Laos to civil aircraft on a "reasonable frequency."

2. The renewal of the request at this time is a good indication of Russian concern over the deterioration of relations with Peking. In the event that China cut off Soviet air access to North Vietnam, flights via Rangoon and across Laos would presumably carry the technicians and emergency spare parts now delivered by flights which have heretofore transited China.

Front Official Refers to DRV Foreign Minister's Interview

3. Nguyen Van Dong, the deputy head of the NFLSV representation in Moscow, in a press conference reported by TASS on 8 February, made the first specific reference by a Front official to that portion of the DRV foreign minister's recent interview dealing with the possibility of talks with the US in return for a cessation in the bombings. Dong, in reiterating the DRV foreign minister's statement, also included references to the importance of the aid being rendered the Vietnamese by "all progressive mankind," and to the Front's claim to be "the only genuine representative of the South Vietnamese population."

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4. Previous statements by the Front dealing with the foreign minister's interview, such as that made by Secretary General Huynh Than Phat, avoided any reference to the possibility of "talks" in return for a halt in the bombings, which Hanoi has clearly indicated was the key portion of the DRV official's statement.

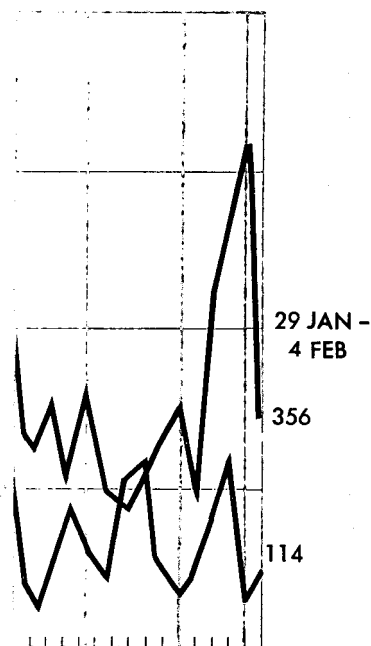
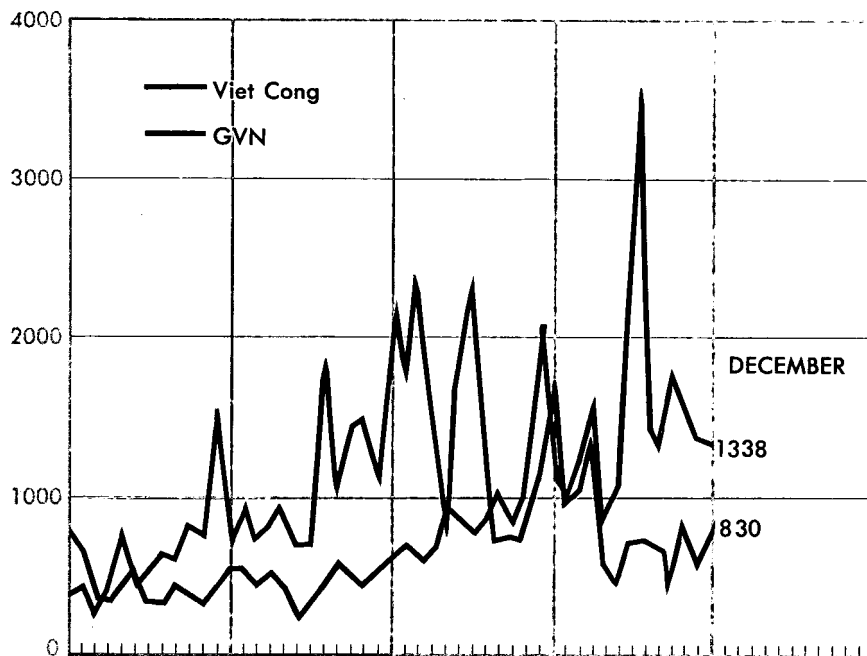
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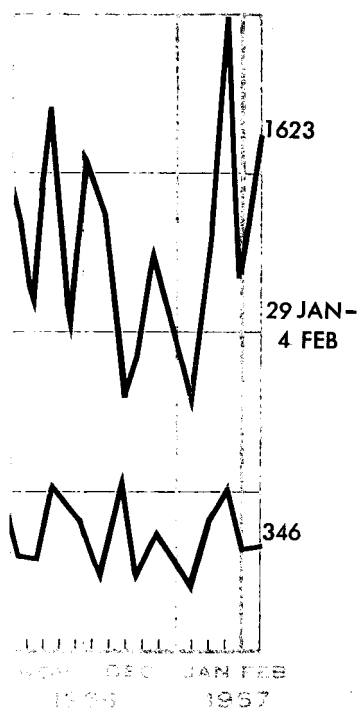
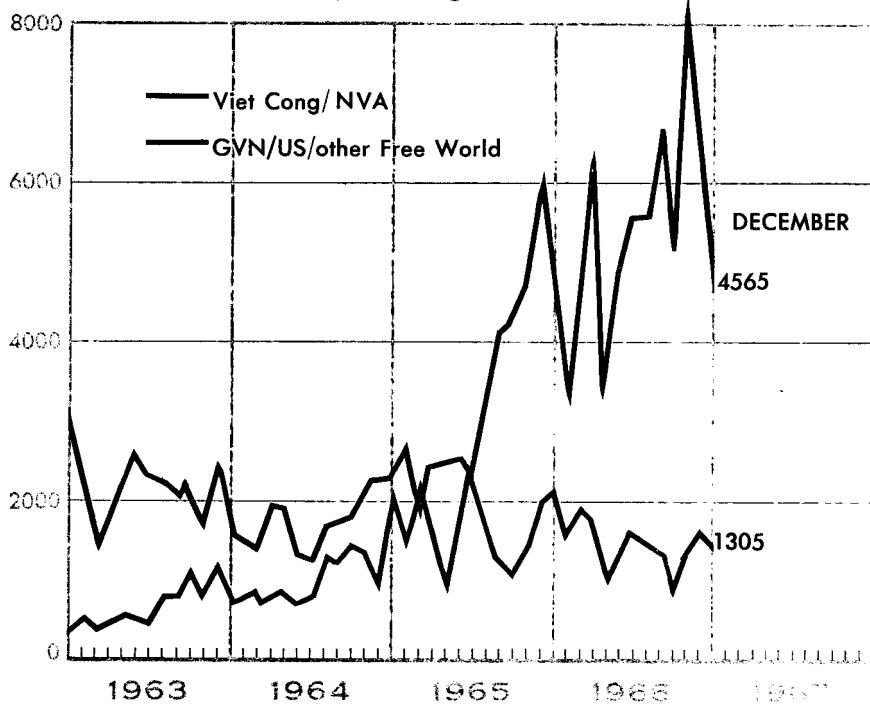
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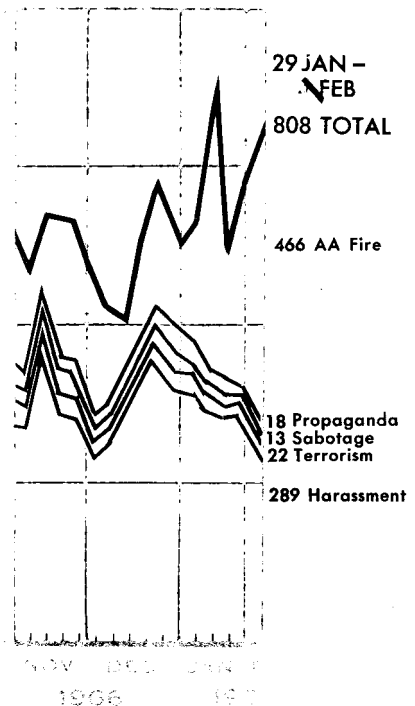
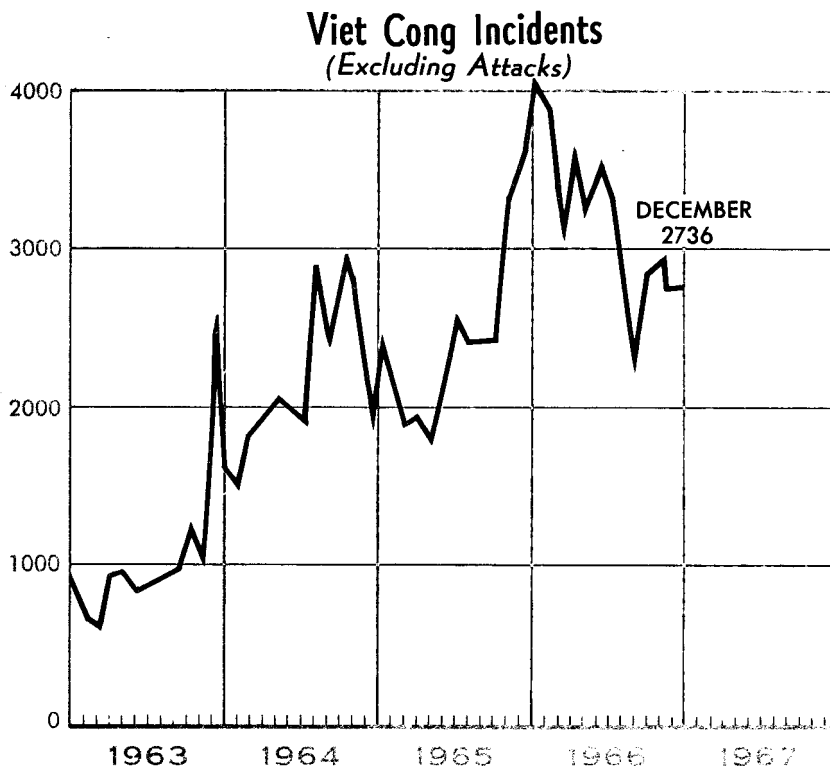
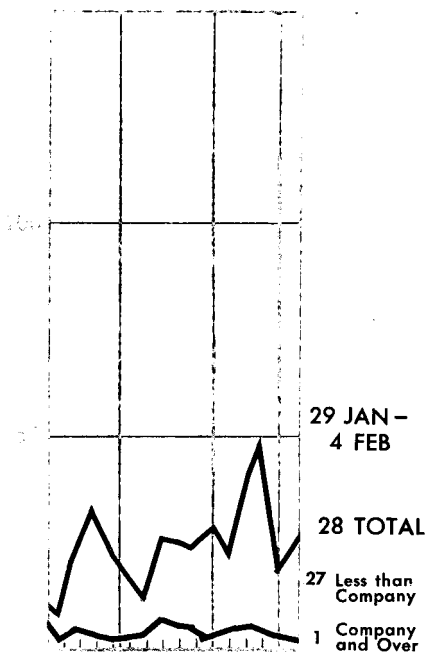
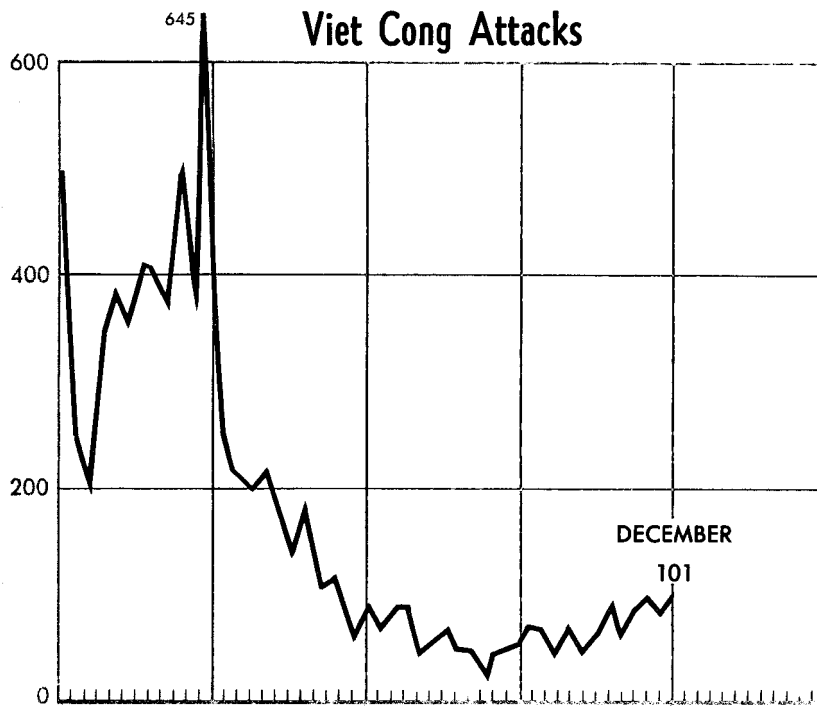
Weapons Losses



Personnel Losses (Excluding Wounded)



US Casualties to Date: Killed 6,823 Wounded 39,136 Captured 136 Missing 355



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